



00862.022015

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
	:	Examiner: T. Lamb
Takashi KAWANA	)	
	:	Group Art Unit: 2622
Application No.: 09/675,141	)	
	:	
Filed: September 29, 2000	)	
	:	
For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS	)	May 10, 2005
AND IMAGE FORMING METHOD	:	

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

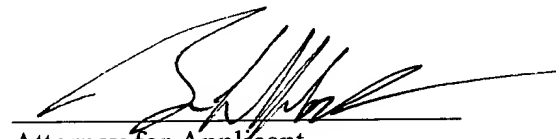
Sir:

In the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached to the Notice of Allowance mailed May 2, 2005, the Examiner states that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest "executing one of an AND operation and an OR operation of a digital signal string related to multilevel image data and a digital signal string based on additional data," and therefore the prior art of record cannot ensure that the additional data is reflected in a formed image with the degree of certainty obtained by the present invention recited in Claims 1 and 9. The Examiner refers to Applicant's arguments at page 14, lines 1-5 of the Amendment filed July 8, 2004.

However, Applicant respectfully notes that the above-quoted feature is not recited in all of the allowed independent claims, and that the arguments of Applicant referenced by the Examiner do not correspond to all of the allowed independent claims. In particular, Applicant notes that allowed independent Claims 20 and 36 recite different features, including those discussed at page 14, line 17 through page 15, line 1 of Applicant's remarks in the July 8, 2004 Amendment, for example. Applicant submits that those independent claims are allowable over the art of record for at least such features.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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